

Remarks

Claims 13-27 are pending in the application. Claims 25-27 are newly added.

Examiner interview

The undersigned thanks Examiner Phan for the courtesy of a personal interview on June 29, 2006.

Claim rejections

Section 102

Claim 13, 16-18 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Riemer et al. (US 5,641,031) ("Riemer"). The Applicant respectfully traverses. Riemer cannot support the asserted rejection for at least the reason that Riemer does not disclose a reformerless fuel cell-equipped vehicle and a hydrogen tank as recited in the present claims. Instead, Riemer discloses a vehicle that includes a reformer 16 and a fuel tank 17 for storing methanol as a fuel.

The present invention is directed to arrange each component on the basis of providing the hydrogen tank. Since no reformer as in Riemer is included in the present invention, there is no need to consider an effect of the high temperature of the reformer on the hydrogen tank and the controller.

In view of the above, claim 13 and claims dependent thereon are allowable over Riemer. Withdrawal of the asserted rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim objections

Claims 14 and 15 were objected to. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested. Claims 14 and 15 depend on claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

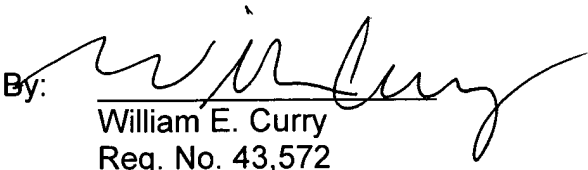
In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 20, 2006

By:


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